

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19

OIC-04 AEC-11 DRC-01 AECE-00 /162 W

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R 151453Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5906

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, CZ, US, XG

SUBJ: STATEMENTS BY CZECHOSLOVAK DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER

VISITING VOA CORRESPONDENT HOPKINS WAS ENTERTAINED AT LUNCH MARCH 14 BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER RUZEK. THIS IS FIRST TIME VOA CORRESPONDENT HAS BEEN RECEIVED HERE AT SUCH LEVEL, ALTHOUGH IN PAST YEAR OR SO RUZEK HAS SEEN SOME OTHER VISITING WESTERN JOURNALISTS, E.G., BERNARD MARGUERITE OF "LE MONDE". FOLLOWING STATEMENTS BY RUZEK (SOME OF WHICH HOPKINS HAS REPORTED IN CLEAR WITHOUT SPECIFIC ATTRIBUTION) SEEM PARTICULARLY WORTH NOTING:

A) ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, RUZEK EXPRESSED OPTIMISM RE GOLD/CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS, DISCUSSED PROSPECTS FOR MFN, AND THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT U.S./CZECHOSLOVAK TWO-WAY TRADE SHOULD DOUBLE OR TRIPLE WITHIN SEVERAL YEARS AFTER CZECHOSLOVAKIA RECEIVED MFN.

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B) RE CSCE QUESTIONS, RUZEK COMMENTED THAT ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COULD BRING POLITICAL RELAXATION IN ITS WAKE, BUT THAT INTERNAL POLITICAL SYSTEMS IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES COULD NOT BE CHANGED

OVERNIGHT. ON FRONTIERS, CZECHOSLOVAKS WANTED INVIOABILITY BUT THIS DID NOT MEAN FRONTIERS COULD NOT BE CHANGED BY COMMON AGREEMENT, AND CZECHS WERE WILLING TO FORESEE POSSIBILITY OF GERMAN REUNIFICATION AT SOME FUTURE POINT.

C) ON MBFR, RUZEK SPOKE SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTICALLY BUT THOUGHT THAT ITS SUCCESS MIGHT BE CONDITIONAL ON SUCCESS OF CURRENT ROUND OF SALT TALKS.
WORTZEL

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